

# **The Ehlers e-Newsletter**

Monday, June 9, 2003

## ***Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives***

**HOUSE APPROVES BAN ON ABORTION PROCEDURE** – The U.S. House of Representatives Thursday voted in overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion to ban the abortion procedure known as “partial-birth abortion” by a vote of 282-139, with Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers joining the 219 other Republicans and 62 Democrats in supporting the measure. This is the fourth consecutive Congress that the House has approved the ban. The bill must still be considered by the Senate before going to the President for approval.

**SCIENCE COMMITTEE APPROVES EHLERS’ INVASIVE SPECIES BILL** – In a move aimed at controlling aquatic invasive species, the House Science Committee Wednesday unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Congressman Ehlers to boost research on preventing the introduction of the troublesome and costly pests. The legislation, the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act of 2003 (H.R. 1081), authorizes approximately \$43.5 million annually over the next five years to combat this problem.

*For more information, follow this link:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/060403InvasivesSciCmteAppr.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/060403InvasivesSciCmteAppr.html)

**GRAND RAPIDS BUSINESSMAN TESTIFIES IN HEARING ABOUT MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS CHAIRED BY EHLERS** – The U.S. will continue to lose manufacturing jobs to foreign competitors unless the nation makes a significant investment in manufacturing research and development (R&D), a Congressional panel was warned Thursday. “The migration of manufacturing to Asia, and in particular China, is gaining steam with no end in sight,” testified Jay Dunwell, president of Wolverine Coil Spring Company in Grand Rapids. “If more of our customers move their production overseas and only require Wolverine’s design assistance, our business model will evolve dramatically – more engineers and dozens less manufacturing setup technicians and machine operators.”

*For more information, follow this link:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/060503Manufacturing.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/060503Manufacturing.html)

**FEDERAL OFFICIALS RECONFIGURE WEST MICHIGAN MSAs** – Congressmen Ehlers and Pete Hoekstra Friday said that they will closely examine the results of the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) realignment of a federally established West Michigan consortium of counties as the changes take effect.

*For more information, follow this link:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/060603MSARealignment.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/060603MSARealignment.html)

## **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **MONDAY, JUNE 9**

*The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.*

**Suspensions (3 bills):**

*(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)*

- **H.R. 1610 - Walt Disney Post Office Building Redesignation Act** *(Marceline, Mo.)*
- **H.Con.Res. 162 - Honoring the City of Dayton, Ohio, and its many partners, for hosting “Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration”, a Celebration of the Centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright’s First Flight**
- **S. 763 - Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse** *(Indianapolis, Ind.)*

## **TUESDAY, JUNE 10**

*The House will convene at 10:30 a.m. for Morning Hour and 12 noon for legislative business.*

### **Suspensions (7 bills):**

- **S.J.Res. 8 - National Sexual Assault Awareness Week:** Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.
- **H.R. 1529 - Involuntary Bankruptcy Improvement Act of 2003:** Provides relief to victims of fraudulent involuntary bankruptcy filings in two respects. First, it amends the Bankruptcy Code to require the bankruptcy court to expunge all records relating to a fraudulent involuntary bankruptcy case from the court’s files where the debtor is an individual, under certain circumstances. Second, it authorizes the bankruptcy court to prohibit all credit reporting agencies from issuing a consumer report containing any reference to a fraudulent involuntary bankruptcy case where the debtor is an individual and the case is dismissed.
- **H.R. 1086 - Standards Development Organization Advancement Act of 2003:** Clarifies the treatment of specific voluntary consensus standard-setting activities under the antitrust laws in order to eliminate perceived obstacles to their development and implementation, and permit for the recovery of attorneys fees for substantially prevailing parties. The bill amends the National Cooperative Research Act of 1984 (NCRA) to limit recovery of antitrust damages against standard development organizations (SDOs) if such organizations disclose the scope and nature of their development activities to relevant federal antitrust authorities.
- **H.Res. 252 - Sense of the House of Representatives supporting the United States in its efforts within the World Trade Organization (WTO) to end the European Union’s Protectionist and Discriminatory trade practices of the past five years regarding Agriculture Biotechnology**
- **H.Con.Res. 110 - Recognizing the Sequencing of the Human Genome as one of the most significant Scientific Accomplishments of the past One Hundred Years and expressing support for the goals and ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day**
- **H.R. 2030 - Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building Designation Act** *(Paia, Maui, Hawaii)*
- **H.R. 925 - Cesar Chavez Post Office Redesignation Act** *(Chicago, Ill.)*

**Bill Subject to a Rule (1 bill):**

**H.R. 2143 - Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act:** Directs the federal functional regulators to prescribe regulations limiting the acceptance of any bank instrument for unlawful Internet gambling. It defines certain terms for purposes of the Act and establishes regulatory enforcement authorities. Its primary purpose is to give the federal functional regulators a new, more effective tool for combating offshore Internet gambling sites that illegally extend their services to U.S. residents via the Internet.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 and THURSDAY, JUNE 12**

*The House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business.*

**Suspensions (2 bills):**

**H.R. 1320 - Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act:** Provides a clear, predictable mechanism for compensating federal entities that move their spectrum operations from frequencies that are reallocated from government to non-government use.

**H.R. 2350 - Reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program Through FY 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

**Bills Subject to a Rule (3 bills):**

**H.R. 2115 - Flight 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

**H.R. 1115 - Class Action Fairness Act of 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

**H.R. 1528 - Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act of 2003:** Contains provisions that will assist taxpayers by reforming the penalty and interest sections of the Internal Revenue Code and provides new safeguards against unfair IRS collection procedures. The bill improves the efficiency of tax administration and increases confidentiality of taxpayer information.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13**

*On Friday, there will be no votes in the House.*

**Historical Tidbits****On June 9 ...**

**1943** - The withholding tax on payrolls was authorized by the U.S. Congress.

**1986** - The Rogers Commission released a report on the Challenger disaster. The report explained that the spacecraft blew up as a result of a failure in a solid rocket booster joint.

**1999** - NATO and Yugoslavia signed a peace agreement over Kosovo.

**On June 10 ...**

**1776** - The Continental Congress appointed a committee to write a Declaration of Independence.

**1801** - The North African State of Tripoli declared war on the U.S. The dispute was over merchant vessels being able to travel safely through the Mediterranean.

**1854** - The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., held its first graduation.

**1898** - U.S. Marines landed in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

**1971** - The U.S. ended a 21-year trade embargo of China.

**On June 12 ...**

**1935** - U.S. Senator Huey Long of Louisiana made the longest speech on Senate record. The speech took 15 1/2 hours and was filled by 150,000 words.

**1987** - U.S. President Reagan publicly challenged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

**On June 13 ...**

**1888** - The U.S. Congress created the Department of Labor.

**1920** - The U.S. Post Office Department ruled that children may not be sent by parcel post.

**1966** - The landmark "Miranda vs. Arizona" decision was issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision ruled that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional rights before being questioned by police.

**1967** - Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

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(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers> and click on "Write Your Rep.")